

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claims 1-9, and add new claims 13 and 14, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** ~~Method~~ A method for the treatment of green wood, ~~wood powder and the like, by~~ to reduce risk of cracking on subsequent drying of the wood, comprising wetting the green wood with an aqueous solution of one or more bifluorides, ~~characterized in that, more especially for the purpose of drying, one immerses or sprays by~~ immersing or spraying the green wood or the wood powder and the like during in or with said aqueous solution for a period of at least 3 minutes.

**Claim 2 (currently amended):** ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that, one immerses wherein the wood is immersed on lath.~~

**Claim 3 (currently amended):** ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that, one sprays wherein the wood is sprayed all sided.~~

**Claim 4 (currently amended):** ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that, one uses for wherein the wetting an aqueous solution [[which]] contains one or more alkali bifluorides.~~

**Claim 5 (currently amended):** ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that, wherein the bifluoride solution contains potassium and ammonium bifluoride, in which the~~ weights ratio between both bifluorides is between 13 : 7 and 2 : 3.

**Claim 6 (currently amended):** ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that, wherein the bifluoride solution contains one or more other bifluorides as for instance zinc bifluoride, and if necessary other soluble metal salts.~~

**Claim 7 (currently amended): Method** The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that, one applies wherein the method on~~ wood is green wood or incompletely dry wood.

**Claim 8 (currently amended): Method** The method according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that, one applies wherein there is applied~~ a mixed bifluoride solution with a weights concentration between 8 and 15 weights% with wood with a moisture content between 10 and 35% and a mixed bifluoride solution with a weights concentration between 15 and 32 weights% with wood with a moisture content between 35 and 60%.

**Claim 9 (currently amended): Method** The method according to claim 1, wherein airily stacked wood is placed on a transport container, and subsequently immersed on all sides in aqueous bifluoride solution and after draining, if desired, dried and transported.

**Claim 10 (previously presented):** Equipment for performing the method according to anyone of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9, comprising a transport container for wood, wherein wood can be airily stacked, characterized in that, the equipment further comprises an immersion vessel wherein fits the immersion vessel provided with agitating means and transporting means for bringing in and bringing out of the transport container and dosing means for supply of bifluoride solution.

**Claim 11 (previously presented):** Modified wood or wooden products produced according to the method of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9, characterized in that, this contains in the outer layers about 15% moisture.

**Claim 12 (previously presented):** Products manufactured from wood powder and the like treated with bifluoride solution according to the method of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9.

**Claim 13 (new):** The method of claim 6, wherein the bifluoride solution contains zinc bifluoride.

**Claim 14 (new):** The method of claim 6, wherein the bifluoride solution contains one or more metal salts.

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